

California's Commission on the Status of Women

Legislative Considerations

Presented by Therese Hughes
Vencie Family Clinic

1. Support the creation of Studies that identify Health Care Disparities for the elimination of these disparities in lesbian health care using best practice standards of care.
2. Support the requirement of the collection of credible standardized data for use in clinical quality improvement and policy development;
3. Support a venue where automated data is easy to access.
4. Work in collaboration with lesbian health care agencies & others to support projects where collected data identifies infrastructure needs in determining health care barriers around access, quality and costs of health care.
5. Support projects where data identifies quality improvement needs in the provision of health care services.
6. Create a project where leadership is supported in the creation of sensitivity training for medical professionals around all lesbian health care needs.
7. Create and support identification of areas for agency collaboration utilizing the Mental Health Service Act monies to identify, promote

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awareness of and culturally competent and linguistically appropriate mental health needs for all lesbians.

8. Contact Governor Schwarzenegger's office regarding inclusion of lesbian health care in his current efforts to create universal health care for all Californians.
9. Create a venue for a two-two year funded demonstration project whose objective would be to determine:
 - The effects universal health care coverage has on any/all lesbian access to affordable, appropriate health care services;
 - Medical and mental health provider(s) training to increase lesbians participation in the health care system;
 - Determine what provider education is most effective in increasing provider and patient ability to communicate in a safe environment.

Utilization of these measures will increase the foundation of information around lesbian health care and provide opportunities for eliminating health care disparities for this underserved population.

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As a point of information, Kris Munoz and Nicole Rosenbaum Members of the City of West Hollywood's LVC - Health Agenda Sub-Committee are available to answer any questions you may have as well. Will Kris and Nicole please stand?

Thank you.